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BATMAN

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**COMBO-
PACK**

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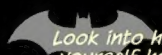


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**Digital Copy
Inside!**



*Look into his eyes and tell
yourself he's just a man.*

*Tell yourself he can't know the things
he says he does. He can't know your
fears. But he has Alfred. He has your
friend. And his eyes...*

*...you have studied the human eye.
There are six eye movements
that reveal motive, then
fifteen variations of each one.*

*On everyone else you
face--even the most hardened
criminals--the pupils contract or
expand depending on emotion.*

*Happiness, laughter,
affection. The pupils open.*

*Fear, anger, hatred,
the pupils close.*

*But not his. His pupils stay
fixed, tiny points of blackness,
the eyes of someone who
hates everything, everyone.*

*Eyes that let in no light,
that see through the darkness,
stare into you, each pupil
a tiny black pearl fixed in space.*

*A bullet coming at you.
Eyes that say he's
more than a man, eyes
that say he knows you.*

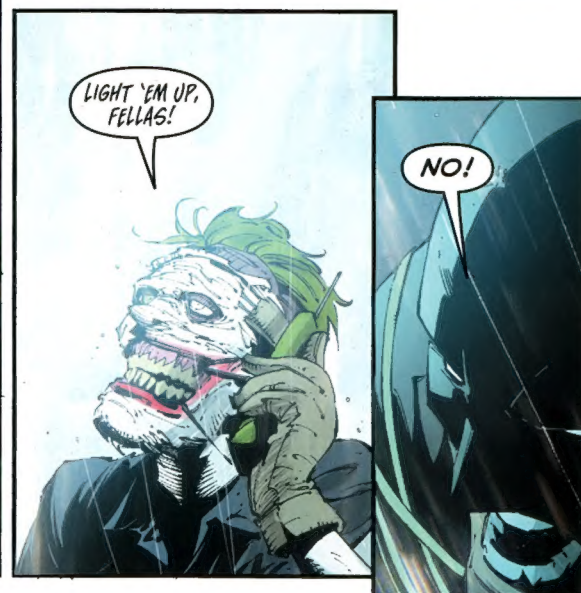
*No...you know what he is.
Tell yourself the truth.
He's just a man who fell
in a vat of chemical waste.
He's just a man...*

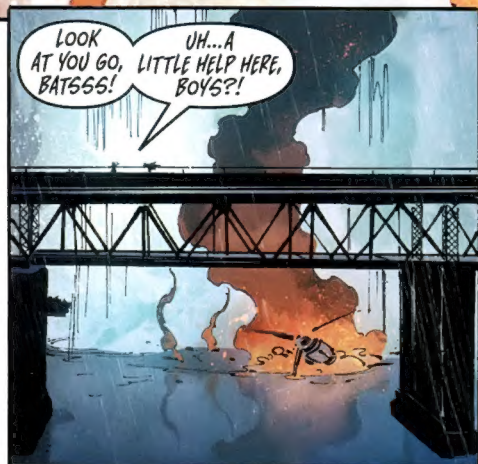


...like you, made of bone
and tissue and blood.

THAT'S RIGHT,
BATSSS! I KNOW WHO
YOU ARE UNDER THAT LITTLE
MASK! AND MORE TO THE
POINT, ALL OF YOU OUT
THERE, LISTENING...











WHERE IS ALFRED PENNYWORTH?! NOW!

HE'S AWAY, BATS! FAR AWAY, PART OF A SPECIAL DINNER FOR US! A CELEBRATION FOR YOU, ME AND YOUR LITTLE FAMILY!

YOU'LL THANK ME WHEN YOU SEE IT, BATS! YOU WILL! YOU MIGHT EVEN KISS MY HAND!



AS I JUST KISSED YOURS, MY LORD, HEE, HEE!



TOXIN... NO...



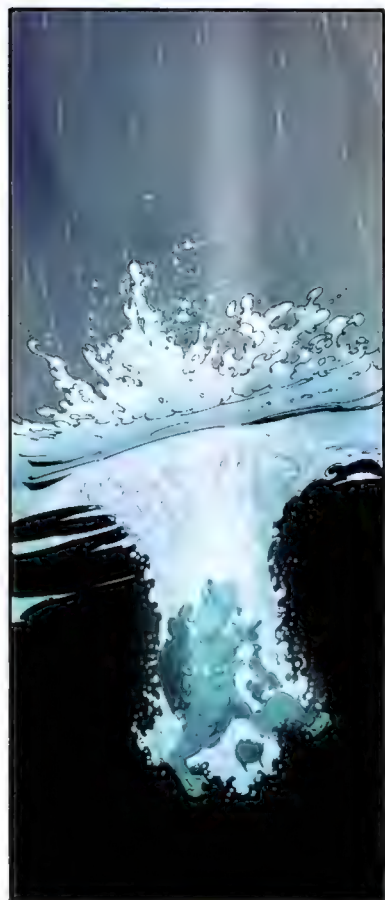
YES, OLD FRIEND. MY KISS CAPTIVATES, YOU SEE? STOPS YOU IN YOUR TRACKS! IT'S THAT FULL OF LOVE!

BESIDES, THERE'S NO WAY I'D LET YOU RUIN THE CELEBRATION I'VE PLANNED FOR YOU. NOT AFTER ALL THE HARD WORK I'VE PUT IN!

ALL THE BLOOD AND TEARS SHED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN--SHED BY OTHERS, OF COURSE, BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT, HAHAHA!

IT'LL BE SPECTACULAR. HERE, LET ME GIVE YOU YOUR INVITE!







BRUCE!

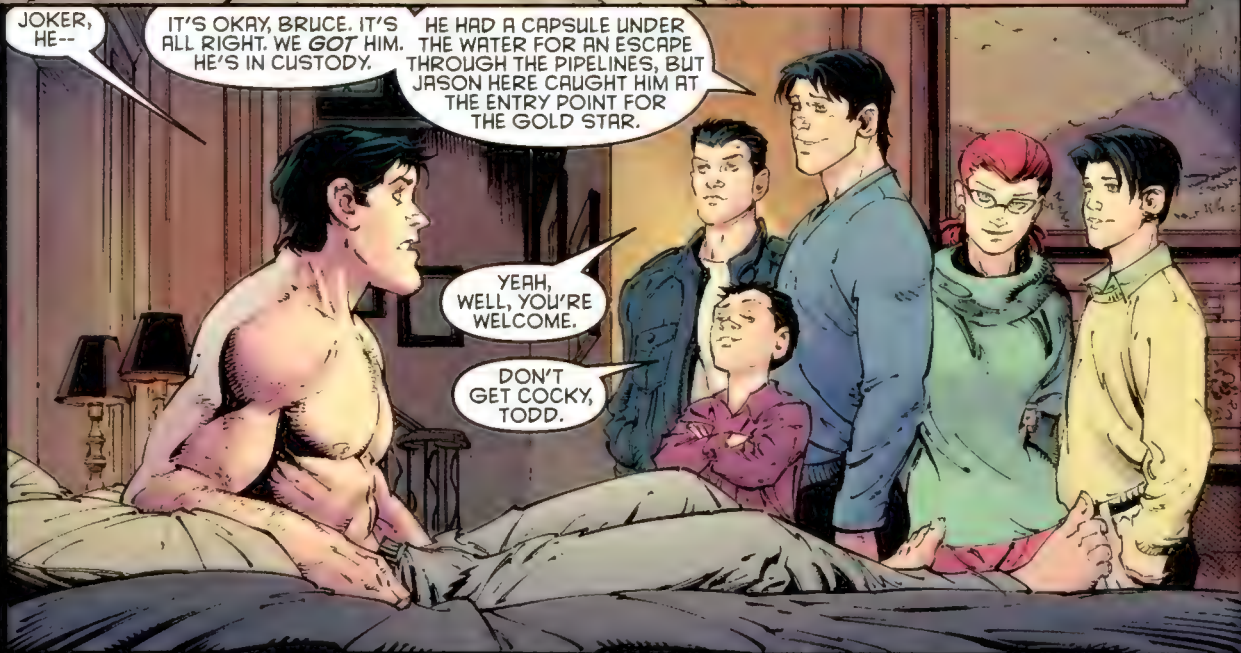
JOKER,
HE--

IT'S OKAY, BRUCE. IT'S
ALL RIGHT. WE GOT HIM.
HE'S IN CUSTODY.

HE HAD A CAPSULE UNDER
THE WATER FOR AN ESCAPE
THROUGH THE PIPELINES, BUT
JASON HERE CAUGHT HIM AT
THE ENTRY POINT FOR
THE GOLD STAR.

YEAH,
WELL, YOU'RE
WELCOME.

DON'T
GET COCKY,
TODD.



AND ALFRED?
ALFRED'S ALL
RIGHT?

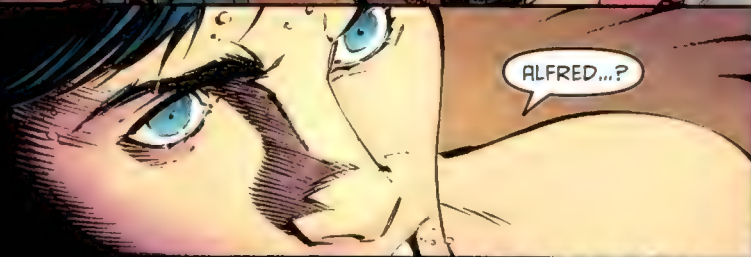
HE'S FINE,
BRUCE.

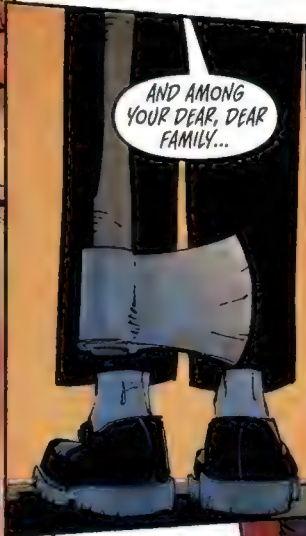
JOKER WAS
KEEPING HIM IN
A STORAGE UNIT,
OF ALL THINGS.
DOWN IN THE
NARROWS.

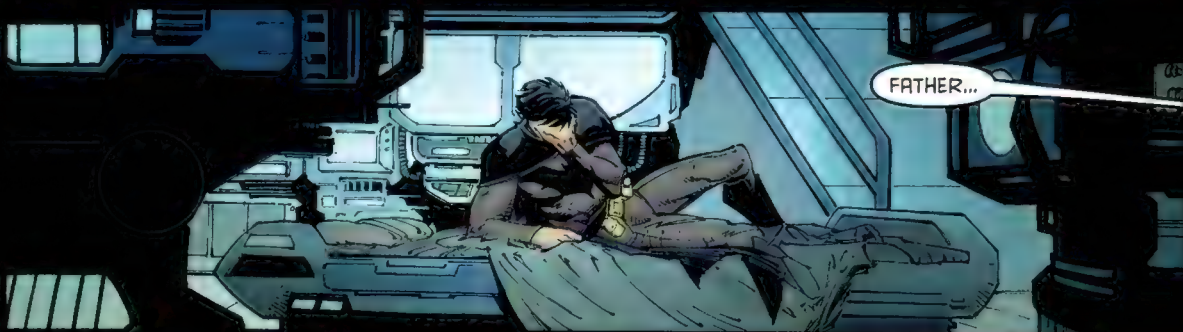
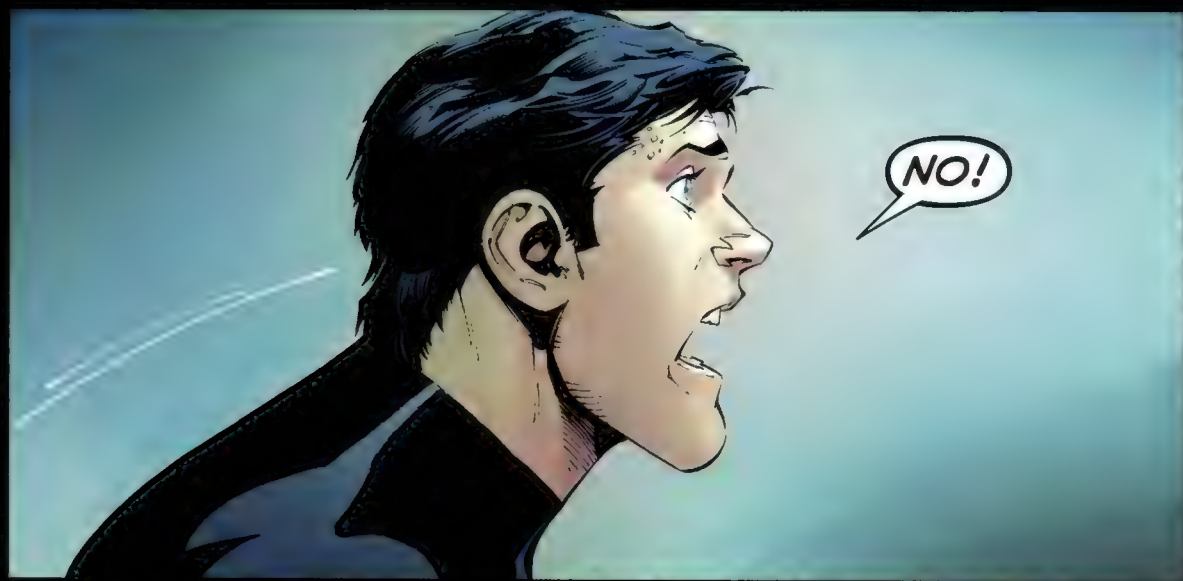
ONE CUP OF
EARL GREY, TWO
FRESH WHITE GLOVES
LATER... HE'S BACK
IN ACTION, FATHER.
SEE?



ALFRED...?











HOW
COULD YOU
NOT TELL
US?



BECAUSE I
WAS AFRAID.
BECAUSE I
BELIEVED THAT YOU'D
LET YOUR *EMOTIONS*
GET THE BETTER OF YOU,
AND BY DOING SO,
YOU'D GIVE HIM THE
UPPER HAND.



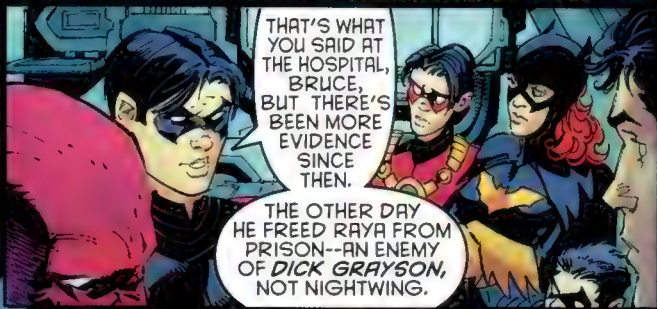
YES...BECAUSE HE
DOESN'T KNOW.

HE TOOK ALFRED
BECAUSE OF *BRUCE*
WAYNE'S CONNECTION TO
BATMAN, INCORPORATED. JOKER
NEEDED SOMEONE TO HELP
HIM PREPARE SOME
CELEBRATION.

IF YOU WERE
JOKER, ALFRED
WOULD BE YOUR
FIRST CHOICE.



LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.
TELLING US THAT HE TOOK
ALFRED, MEANING HE *KNOWS*
WHO WE ARE, WOULDN'T
HELP US UNDERSTAND
WHAT WE'RE UP
AGAINST?



THAT'S WHAT
YOU SAID AT
THE HOSPITAL,
BRUCE,
BUT THERE'S
BEEN MORE
EVIDENCE
SINCE
THEN.

THE OTHER DAY
HE FREED RAYA FROM
PRISON--AN ENEMY
OF *DICK GRAYSON*,
NOT NIGHTWING.



AND THEN HE
CAME AFTER MY
MOTHER!

DAMMIT,
YOU'RE NOT
UNDERSTANDING
HOW HE
THINKS!



THEN *EXPLAIN IT.*
I SAW THE FOOTAGE
FROM THE G.C.P.D. WHAT
DID HE MEAN, YOU
HAVE HIS *CALLING*
CARD?

AND WHAT'S
THE *SECRET* HE
WAS TALKING ABOUT,
THE ONE YOU'RE
KEEPING FROM US?
WHAT IS HE GETTING
AT, BRUCE?




GO ON.
NOW.



FATHER...



IT WAS A
LONG TIME
AGO...



...SOON AFTER I BECAME BATMAN,
BEFORE ALL OF YOU. NOT
LONG AFTER MY FIRST BATTLE
WITH HIM AT *THE RESERVOIR*.

"HE USED A BLIMP
AND TRIED TO
GAS THE CITY."

YOU CAME! AND
HERE I WAS SO WORRIED
I MADE YOU UP! THAT YOU
WERE A FIGMENT OF MY
IMAGINATION! FAKE AS
THE TOOTH FAIRY!

NO,
BUT I'LL
TAKE SOME
TEETH.

"I KNOCKED HIM
INTO THE BAY..."

"...I USED THE *BATBOAT* TO DRAG THE GAS CELL OUT INTO THE WATER BEFORE IT INFECTED ANYONE.

"THEN I RUSHED BACK TO LOOK FOR HIM. I SEARCHED THE BAY FOR HOURS, TRYING TO FIND SOME SIGN OF HIM, BUT THERE WAS *NOTHING*.

"AFTERWARD, THE WHOLE WAY BACK TO THE CAVE, I REMEMBER BEING SO ANGRY WITH MYSELF FOR NOT CATCHING HIM. I WAS ACTUALLY *SHAKING* WITH ANGER.

"I'D NEVER GOTTEN THAT WAY ABOUT AN UNFINISHED CASE BEFORE. *NEVER*. I WAS JUST STARTING TO UNDERSTAND HIM, YOU SEE. THE RESERVOIR GAVE ME A SENSE OF HIM. BUT NOW I WAS JUST STARTING TO UNDERSTAND..."

"UNDERSTAND WHAT, BRUCE?"

"THAT HE WAS *DIFFERENT* FROM THE REST, TIM. THAT HE WAS ABOUT SOMETHING *ELSE*, AND WILLING TO *DO ANYTHING* TO MAKE HIS POINT."

"WHAT POINT?"

"HE'S CHAOS, BRUCE. WHAT ELSE--"

"QUIET. GO ON, BRUCE."

"AFTER SEARCHING THE BAY AND FINDING NOTHING, I TOOK THE BOAT BACK TO THE CAVE. I CAME IN THROUGH AN OPENING IN THE SOUTH PALISADES THAT I'VE SINCE CLOSED OFF.

"AFTER SURFACING, I WENT DIRECTLY UPSTAIRS TO THE MANOR AND SLEPT..."

"...OR TRIED TO."

"BUT JUST HOURS LATER, I CAME DOWN TO THE CAVE AGAIN, TO REVISIT THE CASE. ALL OF IT, FROM THE SLIDE CONTRINING THE WASTE THAT MADE HIM, TO THE TOXIN FROM THE BLIMP.

"BUT WHEN I GOT DOWN TO THE CAVE, I FOUND SOMETHING..."

"FOUND WHAT, FATHER?"

"THERE IN THE WATER BESIDE THE BOAT.

"I FOUND HIS *CARD*."



THE CARD HANGING HERE IS A *REPLICA* OF THE ONE I FOUND IN THE WATER THAT MORNING.

THAT ONE, THE *ORIGINAL*, I TESTED EVERY WAY POSSIBLE. NO HOMING DEVICE, NO TOXIN, NOTHING. JUST A SIMPLE PLAYING CARD.



WHOA, *WHOA*. YOU'RE SAYING THE JOKER MAY HAVE GOTTEN *INTO THE CAVE*?! THAT HE MIGHT HAVE SPENT A MORNING *LURKING AROUND* IN HERE?

NO, DICK. HE MUST HAVE ATTACHED THE CARD TO THE BOAT AFTER FALLING FROM THE BLIMP. HE LIKELY USED AN ADHESIVE THAT WAS WATER-SOLUBLE AND WASHED AWAY.

BUT THAT'S A *THEORY*, BRUCE.



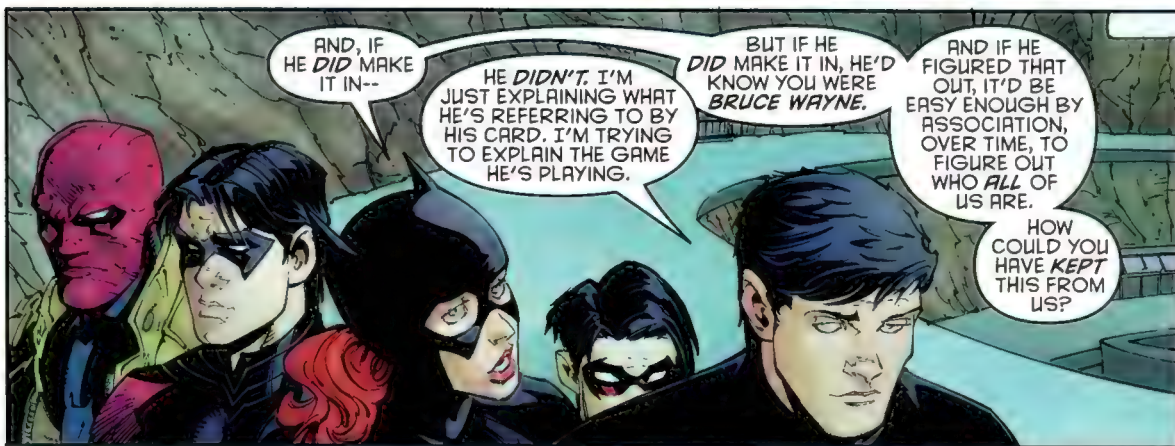
AND, IF HE *DID* MAKE IT IN--

HE *DIDN'T*. I'M JUST EXPLAINING WHAT HE'S REFERRING TO BY HIS CARD. I'M TRYING TO EXPLAIN THE GAME HE'S PLAYING.

BUT IF HE *DID* MAKE IT IN, HE'D KNOW YOU WERE *BRUCE WAYNE*.

AND IF HE FIGURED THAT OUT, IT'D BE EASY ENOUGH BY ASSOCIATION, OVER TIME, TO FIGURE OUT WHO *ALL* OF US ARE.

HOW COULD YOU HAVE *KEPT* THIS FROM US?





HE DIDN'T GET INTO THE CAVE, BARBARA. I'M SURE OF IT.

ALL EARS, BRUCE. WHY?



BECAUSE IT'D HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE, JASON. EVEN BACK THEN, BEFORE I ADDED THE SAFEGUARDS. FIRST, THE BATBOAT WOULD HAVE PICKED UP THE EXTRA WEIGHT.

SECOND, IF HE DID SOMEHOW MANAGE TO EVADE THE SENSOR, HE'D STILL HAVE TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE TUNNELS.



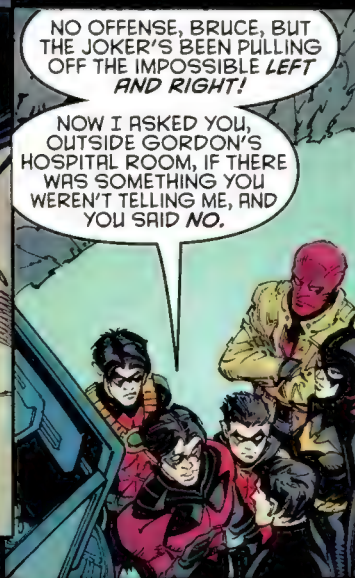
MEANING HE'D HAVE TO HANG ONTO THE BOAT WHILE IT TRAVELED ALMOST FIVE MILES UNDERWATER, AT SPEEDS OF NEARLY FIFTY MILES AN HOUR.

NONE OF US COULD DO THAT. NOT ME, NOT YOU.

THIRD, IF HE MADE IT IN, THERE'D BE TRACES OF HIM. EVIDENCE. FROM THE SENSORS. FROM THE ALARMS. THERE'D BE A RECORD.

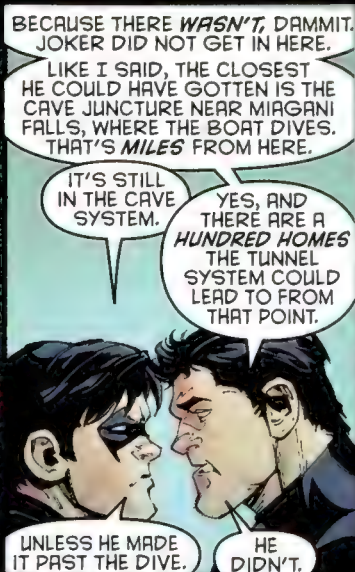


I'M TELLING YOU, UNEQUIVOCALLY, THERE'S NO CHANCE, NONE, THAT HE MADE IT IN HERE.



NO OFFENSE, BRUCE, BUT THE JOKER'S BEEN PULLING OFF THE IMPOSSIBLE LEFT AND RIGHT!

NOW I ASKED YOU, OUTSIDE GORDON'S HOSPITAL ROOM, IF THERE WAS SOMETHING YOU WEREN'T TELLING ME, AND YOU SAID NO.



BECAUSE THERE WASN'T, DAMMIT. JOKER DID NOT GET IN HERE.

LIKE I SAID, THE CLOSEST HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN IS THE CAVE JUNCTURE NEAR MIAGANI FALLS, WHERE THE BOAT DIVES. THAT'S MILES FROM HERE.

IT'S STILL IN THE CAVE SYSTEM.

YES, AND THERE ARE A HUNDRED HOMES THE TUNNEL SYSTEM COULD LEAD TO FROM THAT POINT.

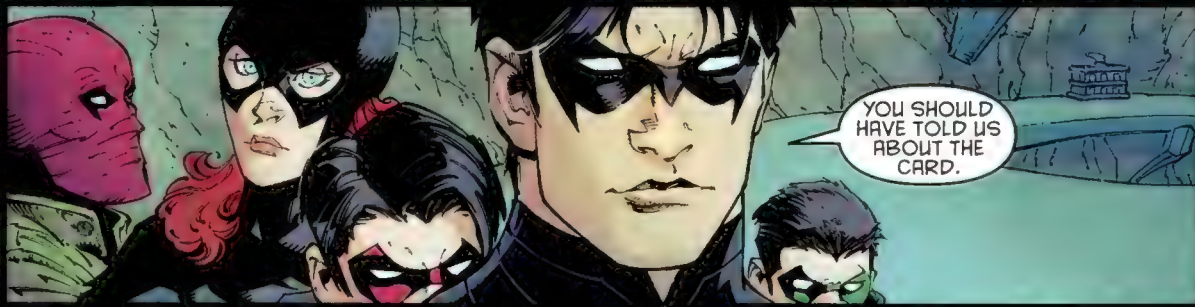
UNLESS HE MADE IT PAST THE DIVE.

HE DIDN'T.



HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO WE ARE. HE DOESN'T CARE, DON'T YOU SEE? HE'S PLAYING US AGAINST EACH OTHER. THIS--RIGHT HERE-- IS WHAT HE'S AFTER!

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DOING HIS WORK FOR HIM, BRUCE.



YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD US ABOUT THE CARD.

IF HE KNEW...IF HE KNEW I WAS BARBARA, THEN THE TIME HE CAME TO MY FATHER'S HOUSE...

BARBARA, DON'T.

HE WAS AFTER YOUR FATHER, NOT YOU. YOU KNOW THAT.

LOOK, ALL OF YOU, UNTIL THIS TIME, HE'S ONLY COME AFTER YOU TANGENTIALLY, TO GET TO ME. BUT NOW, HE'S SAYING HE'S COMING FOR EACH OF YOU HEAD-ON.

AND WHEN JOKER COMES FOR YOU, HE GOES FOR EVERYTHING YOU LOVE, EVERYTHING YOU CARE ABOUT, TO DESTROY IT.

SAY WHAT YOU WILL, BUT ALL I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO HERE--THE ONLY THING--IS TO PROTECT YOU FROM THAT.

YOU TRAINED US TO BE HEROES, BRUCE. YOU TRAINED US TO FIGHT EVIL, AND--

NOT HIM.

YOU CAN'T PROTECT US, FATHER. WE WANT TO FIGHT WITH YOU. WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO, STAY HERE IN THE CAVE?

PFET. LIKE IT'S SECURE.

IT'S SECURE.

TELL THAT TO ALFRED.

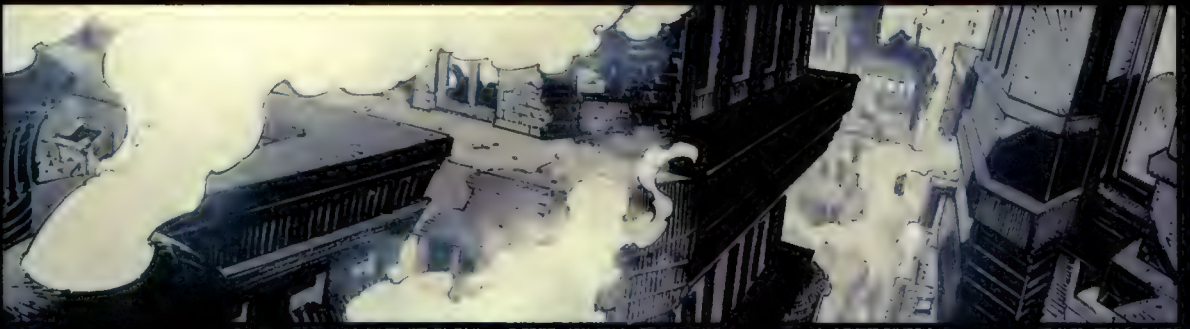
JASON...

I HAVE A LEAD TO FOLLOW.

BUT BRUCE, WE HAVE TO--

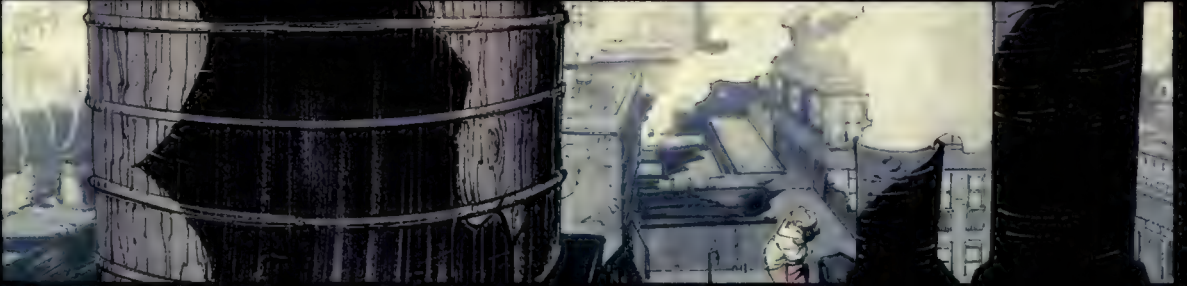
STOP TALKING.

It's his need for help that'll bring him down tonight...



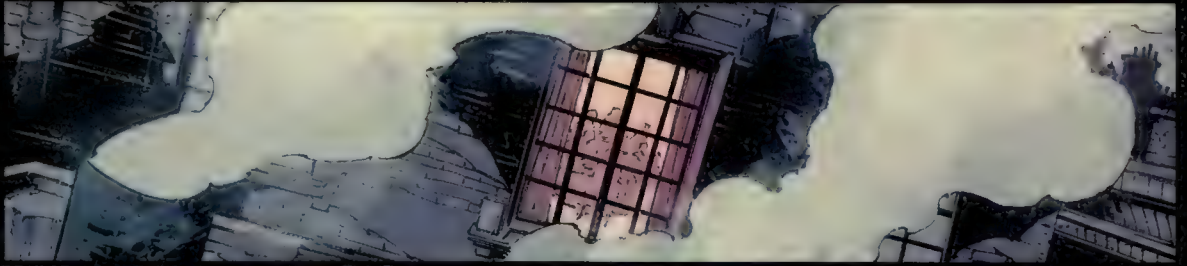
I've been planning for a year, plotting and watching, but to pull off everything he intends, he needs help.

At the reservoir, he used a cellular signal in his remote to contact men hiding in the trees.



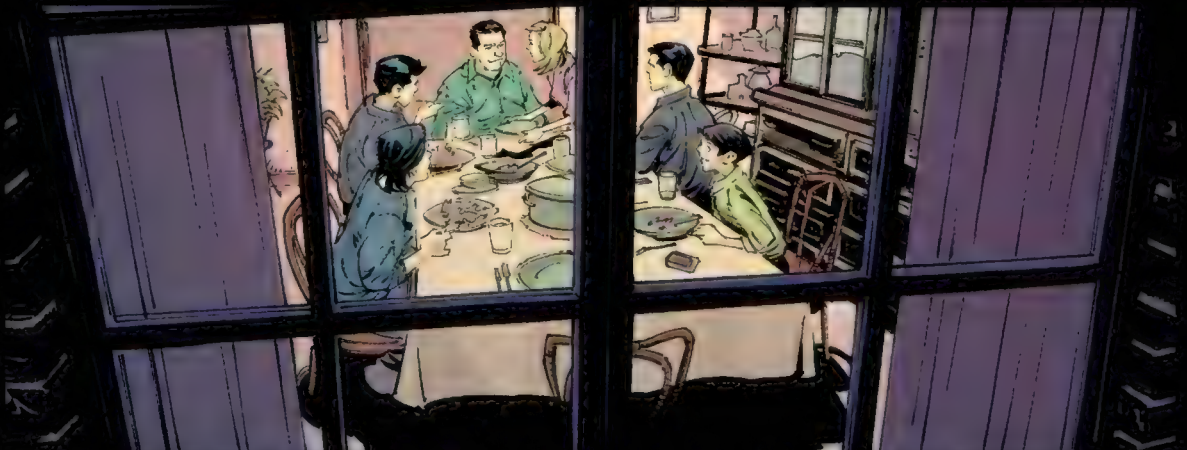
Those men, the help he's using, is where I can get to him...

...get to him before he gets to them. Before he does whatever he's planning to do to Alfred. It's the only way, beating to him his punchline. Ruining his joke.



I traced the cellular signal Joker sent to a pre-paid cell phone number. A burn phone. Purchased with cash at a Gotham electronics shop nine days ago.

The phone is untraceable, but traffic light footage of the corner shows a man exiting the shop at the time of the purchase.



A man identified by the computer as "Dylan McDyre." Forty-five years old. Widowed. Four children. And McDyre resides...



...right here.



DAD...?

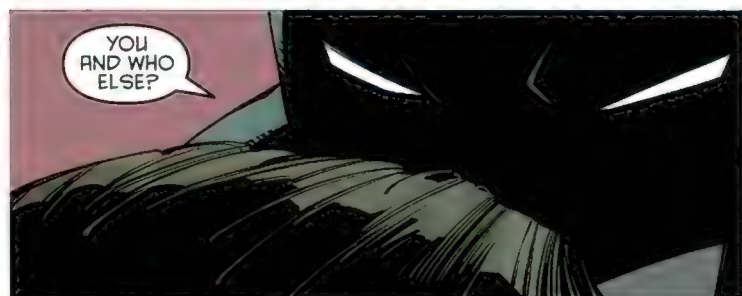
DON'T BE AFRAID. YOUR FATHER AND I JUST NEED TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK.



DON'T WE?



I-I HAD TO. HE SAID HE'D KILL MY FAMILY. HE'S BEEN W-WATCHING US, BATMAN. PLEASE, WATCHING US ALL FOR A WEEK.



YOU AND WHO ELSE?



ALL OF US FROM WORK...

"...ALL THE GUARDS
FROM ARKHAM."

Dylan McDyre. A nine-year
veteran officer of Arkham
Asylum. I assumed he and a
few others had taken up with
Joker, out of greed or fear.

But the story he tells
me, there in his dining
room... it's something
worse than I expected.

A story about an asylum held
hostage by a madman. A killer
who sent the guards home
every night, the ones with
families, forced them to
pretend everything was fine.

To pretend that the Asylum
was business as usual, while
the whole time, day by day, the
inside was being transformed...

...transformed into what
exactly, McDyre wasn't sure.

No one was, he said.
But he saw glimpses
down the hall.

Saw miles of current brought
in, generators and cable,
mortar and spackle and paint.

He heard the screaming, too, saw
bloody towels come down the hall
in a wheelbarrow. Heard bodies
going down the incinerator chute.

The metallic bang, bang, bang
and then the thud. The smoke
and smell and laughter from
above, always the laughter...

"Whatever he was changing it into,"
McDyre said to me, "he said it was for
you, Batman. He said he was making it
your castle, a place to come home to."

So now, Bruce,
as you enter, tell
yourself he's just
a man. Like you.

Tell yourself he has
flesh that can be
ripped, bones that
can be shattered.

That he needs
to breathe, to
sleep, to eat.

Prove it to yourself.

Stare back at him,
into those damn
eyes. Stare
into them until
he flinches.

Until you see them
work like human eyes.
Until you see the
pupils change.

It happens all of a
sudden, just a tiny
shift, but there it is.
You stare back and
you see it. The smallest
flicker in the pupils, but
still. And you say to
yourself, see? Beneath
it all he's just what
you thought he was.

And ignore the fact
that what you saw
those tiny pupils do
was expand. Expand
for you after you
stared back long
enough. Ignore the
fact that what you
saw those black
points expand with...

A man.

...was love.

DC COMICS presents BATMAN in

DEATH OF THE FAMILY

BUT HERE'S THE KICKER

SCOTT SNYDER
writer

GREG CAPULLO
penciller

JONATHAN GLAPION
inker

FED
PLASCENCIA
colorist

RICHARD STARKINGS and
COMICRAFT'S JIMMY BETANCOURT
lettering

KATIE KUBERT
editor

MIKE MARTS
editor

GREG CAPULLO &
FED PLASCENCIA
main and variant
covers

BATMAN
created by
BOB KANE

NEXT:
CASTLE OF
CARDS!

RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT

STARRING
JOKER
& THE RIDDLER

SCOTT
SNYDER &
JAMES
TYNION IV
WRITERS
JOCK
ARTWORK
DAVE BARON
COLORS
TAYLOR
ESPOSITO
LETTERS
KATIE
KUBERT
ASSISTANT
EDITOR
MIKE
MARTS
EDITOR

LET'S SEE IF
YOU CAN GET THIS
ONE...WHAT'S AN ELEVEN-
LETTER WORD FOR
SELF-DISGRACE?

STUMPED? OH,
CHARLES...I THOUGHT YOU
MIGHT BE. NIGHT AFTER NIGHT I
GIVE YOU THESE LITTLE CHANCES
TO PROVE YOURSELF, BUT YOU
ALWAYS DISAPPOINT!

DO YOU GIVE
UP? THE WORD
IS *HUMILIATION*. I
THOUGHT IT WOULD
BE APPROPRIATE.

YOU REALIZE I'VE
GIVEN UP ON THE PAPER
CROSSWORDS, DON'T
YOU, CHARLES? THEY WERE
BORING ME TO *DEATH*.
I'M ONLY DOING THIS
FOR YOU!

AND WHAT
FOR? ARE YOU
EVEN *LISTENING*
TO ME?

~508~

I PROMISE YOU KNOW
THIS ONE. DEGRADATION.
ALIENATION. THAT TIME IN
GRADE SCHOOL YOU SPILLED
MILK ON THE GIRL YOU
SPENT YOUR NIGHTS
DREAMING OF.

NOT TO
MENTION EVERY
NIGHT YOU'RE
LOCKED IN HERE
WITH *ME.*

...SAID
HE'D RIP OUT MY
GIRL'S THROAT, MR.
RIDDLER... SAID
HE'D MAKE ME
EAT IT!

EVES ST

SLAM

WHO SAID THAT?

OH NO, CHUCK! GET OVER HERE! WE NEED HELP

OH GOD IT'S CRUSHING ME!

KEEP MARCHING, BOYS! NOT MUCH FARTHER!



OH, MY...HOW CURIOUS.



STEADY... STEADY...



I'M LOSING MY GRIP!



OH GOD, MY LEGS!

STEVE!

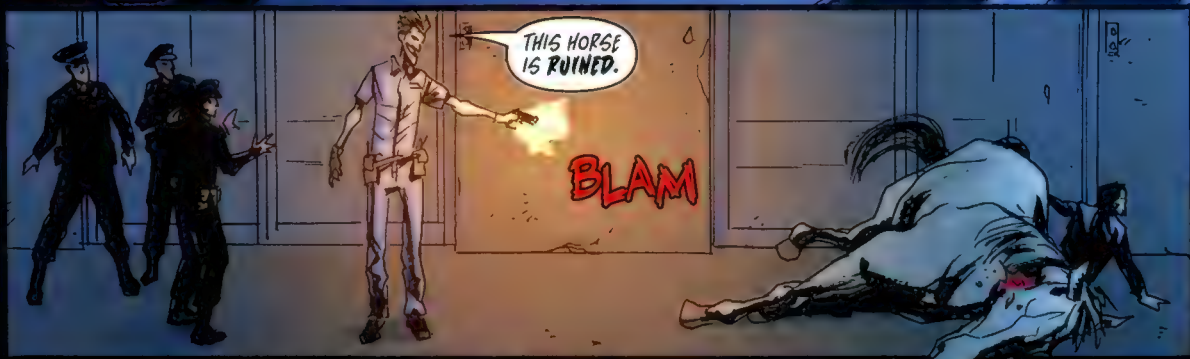


NO NO NO NO NO!



THIS IS
SUPPOSED TO BE
SPECIAL. DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND?!

HOW CAN THIS
BEAUTY BE EXPECTED TO
PERFORM TONIGHT IF YOU'RE
DROPPING HER ALL OVER
THE PLACE?!



THIS HORSE
IS RUINED.

BLAM



GET THE NEXT ONE FROM OUT
FRONT. AND DO IT **RIGHT** THIS
TIME. CAN'T HAVE A NICE PARTY
WITHOUT **HORSIES**. NOW,
CAAAAN WE?


BUT...
WHAT ABOUT
STEVE?




STEVE IS
RUINED, TOO.
NOW GO!




OH! HEY,
EDDIE! DIDN'T SEE
YOU THERE. GLAD YOU
COULD MAKE IT!



BEING INCARCERATED
CERTAINLY HAS ITS
UPSIDES.




HAHAHA! THAT'S MY EDDIE!
WHY DON'T YOU COME OUT
OF THAT CELL? THERE'S
SO MUCH TO DO! SO
MUCH TO SAY!



I'M PUTTING ON A **SHOW**.
OF COURSE, YOU'VE PROBABLY
GUESSED THAT ALREADY. ALWAYS
TEN STEPS AHEAD, AREN'T
YOU, EDDIE?



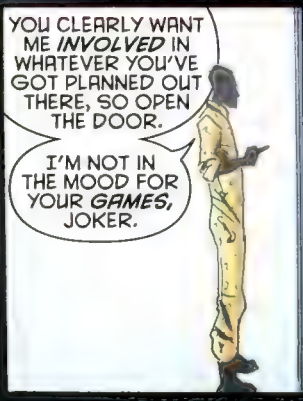
HMM...
YES, OF COURSE.



C'MON NOW.
WHERE'S THE FUN
IN THAT?

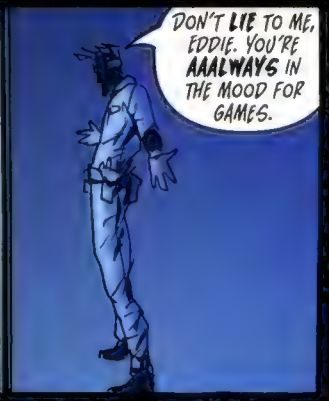
YOU'VE
BEEN LOCKED IN
THERE FOR AGES! YOU'RE
THE RIDDLER FOR PETE'S
SAKE! DON'T PRETEND
YOU DIDN'T FIGURE A DOZEN
WAYS OUT ON YOUR
FIRST NIGHT. I KNOW
YOU BETTER THAN
THAT!

YOU'LL FIND THE
KEY CARD TO THE
DOOR ATTACHED TO
THAT POOR GUARD
YOU JUST GUNNED
DOWN.

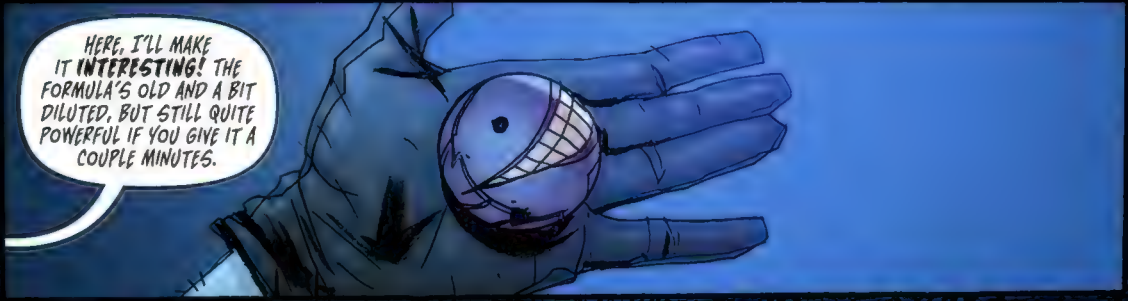


YOU CLEARLY WANT
ME INVOLVED IN
WHATEVER YOU'VE
GOT PLANNED OUT
THERE, SO OPEN
THE DOOR.

I'M NOT IN
THE MOOD FOR
YOUR **GAMES**,
JOKER.



DON'T LIE TO ME,
EDDIE. YOU'RE
AAALWAYS IN
THE MOOD FOR
GAMES.



HERE, I'LL MAKE IT **INTERESTING!** THE FORMULA'S OLD AND A BIT DILUTED, BUT STILL QUITE POWERFUL IF YOU GIVE IT A COUPLE MINUTES.



I DO KNOW HOW MUCH YOU **LOOOOVE** A DEATH TRAP!



->koff->
STOP THIS, JOKER.
->koff->

HAHAHAHA!
NO.

THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT. YOU STOP THIS!

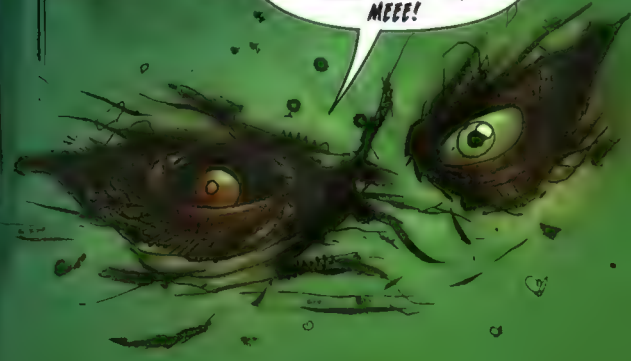
CAN'T BRING YOU ALONG TO THE PARTY IF YOU'RE NOT AT YOUR **BEST**. NOW, CAN I? AND YOU CERTAINLY HAVEN'T BEEN YOUR BEST OF LATE!




YOU ALWAYS SHOWED SO MUCH PROMISE, EDDIE. I **LOVED** THAT IN YOU. RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING.

NOBODY CAN PUSH HIM TO HIS LIMIT LIKE YOU CAN. NOBODY ELSE IS A FRACTION AS SMART AS OUR GLORIOUS **BAT-KING!**

IF YOU DIDN'T SEND OUT YOUR LITTLE CLUES, HE'D NEVER CATCH YOU! BUT THAT'S THE **WHOLE POINT**, ISN'T IT? YOU SEE THE **BIGGER GAME...** JUST LIKE **MEEE!**






YOU KEEP HIS MIND...
HIS MOST TERRIBLE **WEAPON**...
GOOD AND **SHARP**. AND YOU
DO IT BETTER THAN **ANY** OF US.
YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS
HE CAN'T ANSWER.

SO WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU DOING
IN HERE, EDDIE? THERE'S
STILL GOOD WORK
TO BE DONE!


IT'S TIME YOU
GOT BACK IN YOUR **KING'S**
SERVICE! IT'S TIME YOU
GOT BACK TO SHARPENING
HIS SWORD.




YOU'RE THE **MASTER**
AT ARMS IN THIS WICKED
CITY, EDDIE. YOU MAKE
BATMAN SMARTER. BETTER.
MORE DANGEROUS.

I CAN'T BEAR TO
SEE YOU WASTING AWAY
IN HERE. I'D RATHER SEE YOU
DEAD. AND BY THE LOOK
OF THE CLOCK... YOU'RE
ALMOST THERE!


DING



THERE WERE
FORTY-SIX WAYS
OUT OF THAT
CELL, JOKER.




ONLY FOUR THAT MET YOUR
TIME REQUIREMENT. THE EASIEST
WOULD HAVE BEEN TO HIT THE
GLASS PERFECTLY AT THE
SHATTERING POINT. I OPTED
FOR **METHOD THREE**.



REWIRING THE DOOR THROUGH
THE HOLE IN THE WALL I CARVED
SIX WEEKS AGO. I WOULD HAVE
LEFT SOONER, BUT THEY KEPT
CHANGING THE GUARD SHIFTS
ON ME. I WAS WAITING UNTIL
THE PATTERN PRESENTED
ITSELF.



-KOFF-
YOU'RE A
BASTARD, YOU
KNOW THAT,
RIGHT?



I'M QUITE
A BIT MORE THAN
THAT, EDDIE.
HAHAHAHAHA



BUT SO ARE YOU!
THAT'S THE POINT, DON'T
YOU SEE? BUT QUICKLY
NOW... WE MUST FINISH
GETTING READY.

CARE TO TAKE
A GUESS AT WHAT
I HAVE IN **STORE**?
I KNOW YOU'RE
CURIOUS.

THIS IS JEREMIAH
ARKHAM'S DOCTORAL
DIPLOMA.

WELL, I HAD TO DRAW
ON **SOMETHING!** IT LOOKED
SO LONELY UP THERE, DUSTY
IN ITS FRAME. I THOUGHT I'D
PUT IT TO BETTER USE
THAN HE **EVER** DID.

I'M SURE HE
APPRECIATES IT...
WHEREVER HE IS. ONE OF
THE **CLOSETS** I THINK...
BUT NO MATTER.
TAKE A LOOK...

I THINK I
CAN GUESS WHAT
YOU HAVE PLANNED,
JOKER. I'VE KNOWN
YOU LONG ENO--

...
I DON'T... I
DON'T UNDER-
STAND.

IT'S NOT FOR
YOU TO UNDERSTAND,
MY BOY! THIS IS
JUST FOR HIM
AND ME.

BUT TRUST ME,
YOU'RE GOING TO WANT
TO COME ALONG FOR THE
RIDE. THIS IS GOING TO
BE **SOMETHING** TO
REMEMBER!

TO BE
CONTINUED...

DC COMICS GRAPHIC NOVEL GIFT GUIDE



The holidays are right around the corner and DC Comics is all about the spirit of giving—like giving our readers tons of awesome comics and graphic novels each and every week from some of the best and brightest talents in the industry and featuring the World's Greatest Super Heroes!

We understand that shopping for friends and family can get a little tough, but worry not—because DC Comics is here to help. This season, why not give your loved ones the gift of spectacular stories through these 10 Graphic Novels that are great for longtime fans and newcomers?

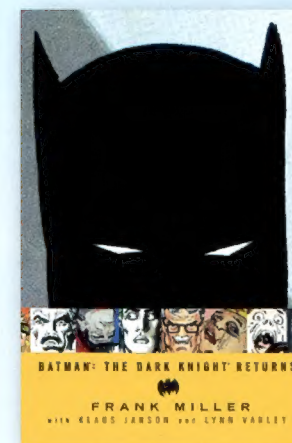
JUSTICE LEAGUE VOL. 1: ORIGIN

A summer big-screen blockbuster in comic book form by Geoff Johns & Jim Lee! The greatest heroes of the DC Universe must join together for the first time to battle a force that threatens the entire planet.



WATCHMEN

The graphic novel by legendary writer Alan Moore and artist Dave Gibbons and THE quintessential read for those looking to take their first trek into the world of comics.



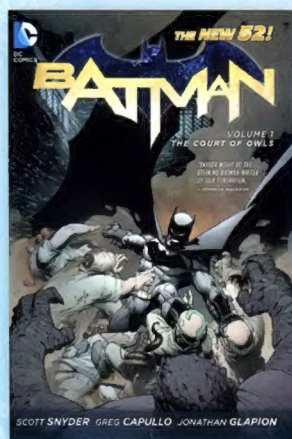
THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS

Frank Miller's dystopian tale solidified the grim and gritty atmosphere of the Dark Knight for years to come, considered by many as the definitive take on the character.



ALL-STAR SUPERMAN

The Silver Age Superman re-imagined for the modern day by Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely in a series of tales filled with strange creatures, exciting adventures, and most important, beautiful art and character-defining moments.



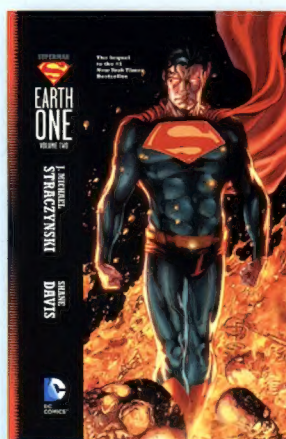
BATMAN VOL. 1: COURT OF OWLS

Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo cement their place in the Batman creative team Hall of Fame with their DC COMICS—THE NEW 52 opening arc that pits the Dark Knight against the secret society known as the Court of Owls.



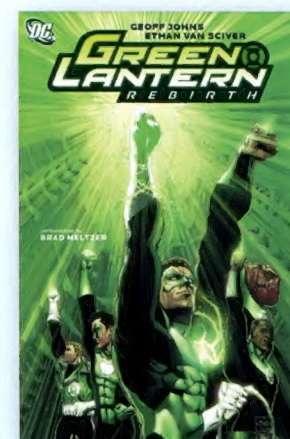
WONDER WOMAN VOL. 1: BLOOD

Writer Brian Azzarello and artist Cliff Chiang craft hands-down one of the best Wonder Woman tales of all time, blending action, adventure, and mythology into a story worthy of the gods.



SUPERMAN: EARTH ONE VOL. 2

The latest volume from J. Michael Straczynski and Shane Davis that defines the essence of the Man of Steel and couples his story with modern sensibilities.



GREEN LANTERN: REBIRTH

The starting point for someone looking to join the Corps! Geoff Johns' near decade-long Green Lantern epic begins here with the return of Hal Jordan and the rebirth of the Green Lanterns, featuring the intricate art of Ethan Van Sciver.



AQUAMAN VOL. 1: THE TRENCH

Geoff Johns and Ivan Reis proved years of jokes wrong when they accomplished the seemingly impossible by making Aquaman cool. The perfect gift for anyone looking for an unexpected surprise that'll blow them away.



BATMAN: EARTH ONE

In the vein of "Batman Begins," Geoff Johns pens an original graphic novel illustrated by Gary Frank exploring the origins of the Dark Knight in a new modern context.

R

eturn to Arkham City!

Waiting for the sequel to **Batman: Arkham Asylum** was very difficult for some of the more enthusiastic gamers on staff at DC Entertainment. After all, Arkham Asylum was one of the most positively received games of all time and a true dream come true for Batman fans. So when our friends at Rocksteady Studios delivered **Batman: Arkham City** and it turned out to blow all of our expectations away...well, let's just say there were a lot of smiles going around – that weren't induced by Joker toxin! Always on the way to maximize fun, we were also able to put together a series of comics that tied directly into Arkham City's storyline. In case you missed any part of this comics-to-console crossover,



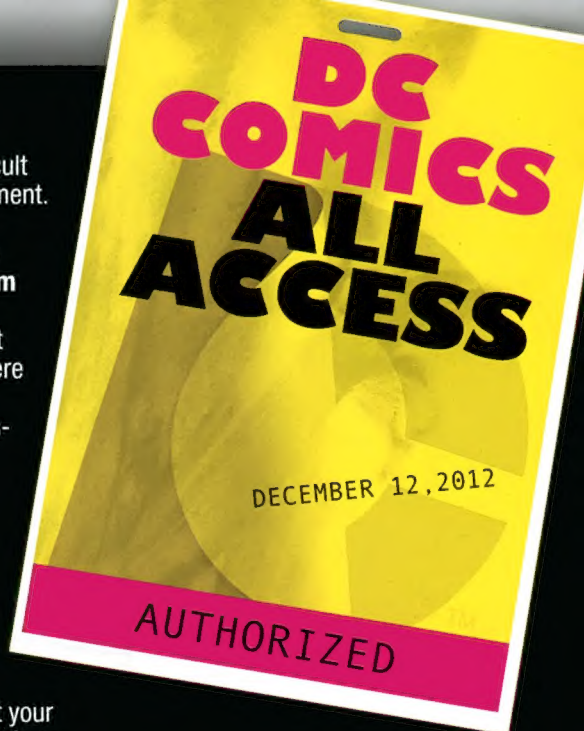
take a look at your chance to catch up:

Batman: Arkham City – End Game #1 collects the entire digital first adventure featuring Batman versus The Joker in a can't-miss story tied directly into the game. Written by Derek Fridolfi and featuring art and a new cover by Jason Shawn Alexander, this 64-page special is available now!

Also available now is the **Batman: Arkham City** collection that features a story by Bat-legend Paul Dini bridging the gaps between the first game and the second. Looking for more of Batman's rogues as they appear in the games? Look no further than **Batman: Arkham Unhinged**, which you can find digitally now or as a print collection in February.

And last but not least, those of you picking up a Wii U this holiday season can check out **Batman: Arkham City – Armored Edition** which features exclusive game play and extras!

All of that should tide you over while we wait for more Bat-games in the near future!



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THE PROLETARIAT

